

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 02095 030218Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 ACDA-12 DODE-00
PM-05 MCE-00 NSC-05 ITC-01 PRS-01 PA-01 /115 W
-----018964 031849Z /47

R 021850Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5476
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 02095

USEEC, USMTN

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, EEC, GW
SUBJ: GERMAN PREPARATIONS FOR EC COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS
OF JAPAN, FEBRUARY 6-7

REF: A) BONN 01876 B) BONN 01871 C) BRUSSELS 1923

1. IN DISCUSSIONS ON USHIBA VISIT TO BONN, EMBOFF
RAISED FRANKFURTER ALLEGEMEINE ZEITUNG ARTICLE REPORTED
REFTEL B. ECON MIN OFFICIAL DESCRIBED ARTICLE AS
TOTALLY INACCURATE IN TONE, WITH ONLY A PARTIAL REPORTING
OF THE FACTS. PARTICULARLY ABSURD WAS THE REPORTED
JAPANESE PROMISE TO INCREASE ARMS PURCHASES FROM THE US.

2. SOURCE SAID COMMISSION REPORT ESTIMATED A JAPANESE
GROWTH RATE OF ONLY 5 PER CENT FOR 1978. IT WOULD
TAKE MUCH LONGER TO REACH THE 7 PER CENT FIGURE. HE
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PAGE 02 BONN 02095 030218Z

ALSO ADMITTED THAT THERE WAS LITTLE OR NO DISCUSSION
OF DUTY REDUCTIONS IN THE COMMISSION PRELIMINARY
REPORT. THE QUESTION OF A TRILATERAL DISCUSSION OF
TRADE PROBLEMS IS STILL OPEN, THOUGH USHIBA TOLD THE
GERMANS THAT THERE WOULD BE ANOTHER ROUND OF
US/JAPANESE CONSULTATIONS IN THE FALL OF 1978.

3. IN THE COMING EC COUNCIL MEETING, THE GERMANS PLAN TO ASK THE COMMISSION FOR A FULL STUDY OF THE JAPANESE COMMUNIQUE, THUS TEMPORARILY FENDING OFF ALLEGED FRENCH AND BRITISH ATTEMPTS TO MAKE JAPAN A SCAPEGOAT FOR PROTECTIONISTIC MEASURES. THE BRITISH REPORTEDLY, WILL APPROACH THE JAPANESE BILATERALLY AND THEN THE EC ON APPRECIATION OF THE YEN.

4. THE FRG STRATEGY IN THE COUNCIL WILL BE TO WORK FOR COOPERATION INSTEAD OF CONFRONTATION. THEY HOPE THE COMMISSION CAN DIRECT ITS ENERGIES TOWARD ENCOURAGING THE JAPANESE TO INCREASE THE SHARE OF MANUFACTURED GOODS AS A PORTION OF TOTAL IMPORTS, ESPECIALLY EUROPEAN GOODS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN TRADE, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN02095
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780052-0702
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802103/aaaadita.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c9756dcd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 BONN 1876, 78 BONN 1871, 78 BRUSSELS 1923
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3434821
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GERMAN PREPARATIONS FOR EC COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS OF JAPAN, FEBRUARY 6-7
TAGS: ETRD, GE, EEC
To: BRUSSELS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c9756dcd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014